United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

March 15, 1963

General Maxwell D. Taylor
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Taylor:

This letter is written at the direction of Senator Stennis in furtherance of the telephone conversation which he had with you this morning.

The report which he desires would include a discussion of the following topics:

a. A description of the Communist (Cuban and Soviet) military posture in Cuba, including a description of the Cuban organization and the Soviet organization as to composition, strengths and combat ability. It should also include an analysis of the Communist capability to threaten or attack the United States or its possessions, their present and probable future capability to interfere with the interests and activities of the United States in the Caribbean area, and their capability to militarily interfere with or influence the Central and South American nations.

b. A description of how the above capabilities would be affected if and when the Soviet units should be withdrawn.

c. A discussion of the effect of the presence of Soviet units on a possible insurrection against Castro's government and the prospects of the success of such an insurrection.

d. An estimate of the rearrangement of U.S. forces which will be required as a consequence of the continued presence of Soviet units in Cuba and that which will be required if the Soviet units depart.

e. An estimate as clearly as possible, without going into operational plans, of the nature, size, demands upon available United States forces, and the probable duration of the United States effort in the event an invasion of Cuba becomes necessary.
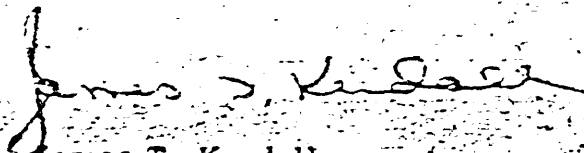
General Maxwell D. Taylor   March 15, 1963

     Senator Stennis has asked that I thank you for your cooperation
in this and other matters and to tell you that he would appreciate your
response as expeditiously as possible.

                                        Sincerely,

                                        James T. Kendall
                                        Chief Counsel
                                        Preparedness Investigating
                                           Subcommittee